

Chief, D/E

3 September 1942

Acting Chief, E/C

Outline of E/C Reading Requirements and Suggestions for Foreign  
Documents Division

1. The primary mission of the Commodities Branch is to supply economic intelligence on the Soviet Bloc (including Communist China and North Korea) to various committees of the Government which formulate export control policy. To a great extent this policy is based on intelligence estimates of the vulnerability of the Soviet Bloc to export control measures applying to these commodities and the degree to which these conditions can be exploited by curtailment or cessation of trade in them by the Western countries. In order to arrive at these estimates, intelligence is needed especially on strategic materials, strategic industrial and transportation equipment and spare parts and components for these items.

2. Specifically, the E/C Branch is interested in Soviet Bloc raw materials and capital equipment shortages, production bottlenecks, plant shutdowns, shortage of spare parts, inadequate manpower, inferior quality of production, maldistribution, or any other situation which would be further aggravated if imports from the West were reduced. Information is also desired on East-West trade in strategic commodities, efforts made by the Bloc to circumvent export controls, offers of premium prices, and any statements which would bear on the effectiveness of the western export control program. The Branch needs intelligence on attempts made by the Bloc to overcome these deficiencies, such as new production methods or techniques, development of substitutes, and the degree of success of these efforts. Also desired are statements of production of admittedly obsolete items.

3. Although information on new models of certain types of equipment which have been developed in the Bloc to replace similar items under embargo by the West is of primary concern to D/I, such intelligence is also of interest to this office as these developments have a decided effect on the vulnerability of the Bloc to export control measures.

4. Also of value to the E/C Branch is information contained in the various Five-Year Plans; the relative degree of emphasis placed on various segments of the economy; the success of the projected plan or reasons for non-fulfillment; criticisms of the plan contained in press or radio.

-1- 2 -1-

5. It has been noted in the past that articles have appeared in the Soviet press and radio broadcasts dealing with self-critique and plant histories which contained valuable information of the type desired.

6. The following outline may be helpful in selecting intelligence which is desired by E/C. The list is representative and not all-inclusive.

**Metalworking Machinery**

(Boring, drilling, and tapping machines, lathes, etc.)

**Chemical and Petroleum Equipment**

(Concentrating, oxidation, hydrogenation, and extraction equipment; compressors, pumps, valves, and containers; oil well drilling, exploration, refining and production equipment, etc.)

**Electric and power generating equipment**

(Electric furnaces, diesel engines, electric motors, etc.)

**General Industrial Equipment**

(Metallurgical, mill and foundry equipment such as rolling mills; construction and conveying machinery, rubberworking machinery; mining equipment, rocker shovels, etc.)

**Transportation Equipment**

(Vessels, marine and railway equipment, etc.)

**Electronics and precision equipment**

(Radio and radar apparatus, electronic valves, meters, generators, pyrometers, voltmeters, etc.)

**Metals and minerals and their manufactures**

(Bearings, munitions components; copper, aluminum, ferro alloys; tin, mica, asbestos, etc.)

**Chemical and Petroleum Products**

(Basic chemicals, petroleum fuels, lubricants, additives, blending agents, etc.)

**Rubber and rubber products**

(Synthetic rubber, tires and tubes, tire casings, etc.)

E/C/RR: VBG:rs (3 Sept 1952)

Distribution:

3 - Addressee -

1 - E/C

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